

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS
P.O. BOX 451
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT NUMBER W1-3758(I)

TO: The Honorable Eric Clark
Secretary of State
P.O. Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205
AND
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, at a meeting in Jackson, Mississippi on May 18, 2006, under authority of Section 25-43-3.103, Mississippi Code of 1972, made known its intent to adopt the following **2006 Alligator Hunting Season**. This was done under authority of Sections 49-1-29 and 49-7-47, Mississippi Code of 1972.

Be it ordered that Public Notice Number W 3758 is hereby amended, and the following 2006 Alligator Hunting Season regulations are adopted.

An American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) hunting season, hereby referred to as the **"Public Water Alligator Hunting Season,"** will be opened in the public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District in Rankin, Madison, and Scott Counties, only within the area north of MS Hwy 43 and south of the Coal Bluff Park boat ramp, according to restrictions below (see *Public Water Alligator Hunting Season*, p. 1-4).

In addition, an alligator hunting season, hereby referred to as the **"Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season,"** will be opened on private lands in Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties, according to restrictions below (see *Private Lands Alligator Hunting Season*, p. 4-7).

PUBLIC WATER ALLIGATOR HUNTING SEASON

General

Location:

The public waters of the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District only within the area north of MS Hwy 43 and south of the Coal Bluff Park boat ramp.

Dates:

Season 1: September 8-10, 2006
Season 2: September 15-17, 2006

Hunting Hours:

6:00 PM until 12:00 Midnight CST

Permits:

Fifty (50) persons will be randomly drawn by computer to be eligible for an Alligator Possession Permit for one of the two Public Water Alligator Seasons . Possession permits are not transferrable.

Bag limit:

Each person receiving an Alligator Possession Permit will be allowed to harvest one (1) alligator four (4) feet in length or longer.

Specific

Persons eligible:

Only residents of the State of Mississippi who are sixteen (16) years of age or older may apply for an Alligator Possession Permit (*see License Requirements*). Non-residents may participate as alligator hunting assistants (*see License Requirements*).

Applications:

Applications for permits will be accepted from July 17-August 01, 2006. Application must be submitted electronically through a POS license terminal (anywhere that hunting/fishing licenses are sold). A non-refundable application fee of \$5 will be charged. Only applications received on or before August 01 will be eligible. Only one application may be submitted per person. Any person submitting multiple applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by mail.

Mandatory training course:

All drawn applicants will be required to attend and complete the Alligator Training Course provided by the MDWFP. The Public Waters Alligator Training Course will be held at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS, from 1:30-5:00pm on August 26. Upon completion of the course, drawn applicants will be eligible to purchase an Alligator Possession Permit.

Capture and Dispatch Methods:

Alligators must be captured alive prior to shooting or otherwise dispatching the animal. It is unlawful to kill an unrestrained alligator. Restrained is defined as an alligator that has a noose or snare secured around the neck or leg in such a manner that the alligator is controlled. Restraining methods are restricted to hand-held snares, snatch hooks (hand-held or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/bouy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/bouy).

All alligators must be dispatched or released immediately after capture. Firearms used for dispatching an alligator are restricted to shotguns with shot size no larger than #6 and bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger. All shotguns and bangsticks must be cased and unloaded at all times until a restraining line has been attached to the alligator. No other firearm or ammunition may be in possession of the permittee or hunting party. No firearm or bangstick may be discharged within 100 yards of any residence, building, boat ramp, or occupied campsite.

Mandatory Check Station:

All participating permittees must check in prior to hunting and check out upon completion of the hunt each day at the checking station. All permittees must purchase an Alligator Possession Permit and Alligator Hunting License prior to registering at the check station. Each permittee in possession of an Alligator Possession Permit will be issued a Temporary Alligator Possession Tag upon checking in. The check station will be open from 5:00 pm until 1:00 am.

Harvest Reporting and Tagging:

All harvested alligators must be validated at the designated check station on the day of harvest. The Temporary Alligator Possession Tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting. Upon validation at the check station, a federal CITES tag will be attached to the alligator.

License Requirements:

Alligator Hunting Permittee: All alligator hunting permittees must purchase and have on their person a combination resident hunting/fishing license. In addition, an Alligator Hunting License and Alligator Possession Permit are required for each permittee prior to being issued a Temporary Alligator Possession Tag. The cost of the Alligator Hunting License is twenty-five dollars (\$25). The cost

of the Alligator Possession Permit is one hundred dollars (\$100). All licenses are non-refundable.

Alligator Hunting Assistant: All residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a combination hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License. Any non-residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a NR-All Game License and an Alligator Hunting License. All licenses are non-refundable.

PRIVATE LANDS ALLIGATOR HUNTING SEASON

General

Location:

Private lands of Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties.

Dates:

September 8-10, 2006
September 15-17, 2006

Hunting Hours:

Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise on September 08 until 12:00 Midnight CST on September 10.

AND

Thirty (30) minutes before sunrise on September 15 till 12:00 Midnight CST on September 17.

Permits:

Hinds Co.	20 permits
Madison Co.	30 permits
Rankin Co.	40 permits

All permits will be randomly drawn by computer. Possession permits are not transferrable.

Bag limit:

Each person receiving an Alligator Possession Permit will be allowed to harvest one (1) alligator four (4) feet in length or longer.

Specific

Persons eligible:

Only residents of the State of Mississippi who are sixteen (16) years of age or older may apply for an Alligator Possession Permit (*see License Requirements*). Non-residents may participate as alligator hunting assistants (*see License Requirements*).

Applicant restrictions and requirements:

Only one (1) application may be submitted per person. Any person submitting multiple applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. All drawn applicants will be notified by mail. Applicants are not required to be landowners. Applicants must obtain and submit with the application the following information and documentation from a landowner in Hinds, Madison, or Rankin Co. who owns at least ten (10) contiguous acres of property:

- signed agreement form from permitting landowner (*included in the application form*)
- proof of ownership by providing a copy of the permitting landowners 2005 property tax receipt (if the tax receipt does not document total acreage, then additional documents with acreage total are required, ie. property deed, property appraisal, or a signed letter from the appropriate county tax assessor's office)

(All required information is available through the appropriate county tax assessor's office.)

Applications & fees:

Applications will be received July 17-August 1, 2006. Applicants must submit a properly completed application by 5:00 pm August 1, 2006. Incomplete or non-legible applications will be withdrawn from the drawing process. Applications are available online at www.mdwfp.com, or they may be obtained in person at any Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks (MDWFP) District Office or the MDWFP Jackson Office, M-F, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

A non-refundable application fee of \$5 is required for each application submitted. Payment must be submitted with the application. Only checks or money orders will be accepted. Make them payable to: MDWFP-Alligator Hunt Application.

Mail completed applications to: MDWFP - Wildlife Division
Attn: PL-Alligator Possession Permit
1505 Eastover Dr.
Jackson, MS 39211-6374

Mandatory training course:

All drawn applicants will be required to attend and complete the Alligator Training Course provided by the MDWFP. The Private Lands Alligator Training Course will be held at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson, MS, from 9:30am-12:30pm on August 26. Upon completion of the course, drawn applicants will be eligible to purchase an Alligator Possession Permit.

Capture and Dispatch Methods:

Alligators must be captured alive prior to shooting or otherwise dispatching the animal. It is unlawful to kill an unrestrained alligator. Restrained is defined as an alligator that has a noose or snare secured around the neck or leg in such a manner that the alligator is controlled. Restraining methods are restricted to hand-held snares, snatch hooks (hand-held or rod/reel), harpoons (with attached line/bouy), and bowfishing equipment (w/ line attached from bow to arrow or line/bouy).

All alligators must be dispatched or released immediately after capture. Firearms used for dispatching an alligator are restricted to shotguns with shot size no larger than #6 and bangsticks chambered in .38 caliber or larger. All shotguns and bangsticks must be cased and unloaded at all times until a restraining line has been attached to the alligator. No other firearm or ammunition may be in possession of the permittee or hunting party.

Harvest Reporting and Tagging:

The Temporary Alligator Possession Tag must be attached to the alligator immediately after being dispatched and prior to moving or transporting. The Alligator Harvest Card must be filled out, dated, and signed prior to transporting or processing. Upon harvest validation a federal CITES tag will be attached to the alligator. All participating Private Lands Alligator Permittees must validate their harvest. There are two methods of validation available to Private Lands Alligator Hunt Permittees:

- (1) Transport the whole carcass to the checking station during station hours (5:00 pm until 1:00 am, September 8-10, and 15-17).
- (2) Transport the whole carcass or complete hide and head to any MDWFP District Office or the MDWFP Jackson Office, M-F, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. The deadline for validation is 5:00 pm on September 29.

All unused Temporary Alligator Possession Tags along with a completed Alligator Harvest Card must be returned by September 29, 2006. . Failure to meet the deadline may result in revocation of the permittees hunting/fishing license and appropriate citations.

License Requirements:

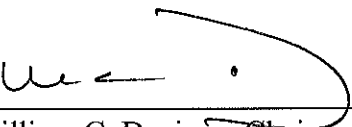
Alligator Hunting Permittee: All alligator hunting permittee's must purchase and have on their person a combination resident hunting/fishing license. In addition, an Alligator Hunting License and Alligator Possession Permit are required for each permittee prior to being issued a Temporary Alligator Possession Tag. The cost of the Alligator Hunting License is twenty-five dollars (\$25). The cost of the Alligator Possession Permit is one hundred dollars (\$100). All licenses are non-refundable.

Alligator Hunting Assistant: All residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a combination hunting/fishing license and an Alligator Hunting License. Any non-residents in the hunting party who are sixteen (16) years of age or older are required to purchase and have on their person a NR-All Game License and an Alligator Hunting License. All licenses are non-refundable.

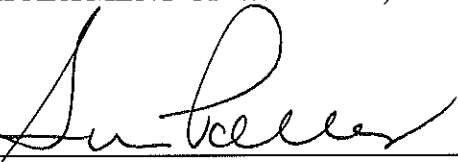
Any person violating the regulations set forth in this document is guilty, upon conviction, of a Class I offense and is punishable as provided in MS CODE §49-7-141.

Anyone wishing to comment on the above proposed action may do so in writing to the Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, P. O. Box 451, Jackson, MS 39205, no later than June 30, 2006.

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

BY: 
William C. Deviney, Chairman

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

BY: 
Sam Polles, Ph.D., Executive Director